(e) and (f) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing various schemes for increasing agricultural production and productivity and they are meant for all categories of farmers. These schemes provide assistance in various components and some of the components give special consideration to certain category of farmers such as small and marginal farmers.

The Government also implements schemes for price and market support which, *inter-alia,* helps in strengthening the farm income and economic conditions of the farmers. These schemes cover all categories of farmers including small and marginal farmers.

(g) There is no proposal under consideration to waive premium for Crop Insurance under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (N.A.I.S.). However, there is a provision to provide 50% premia-subsidy to small and marginal farmers by the Government. The Premia-subsidy will be phased out over a period of five years;

(h) Schemes providing for special consideration to certain categories of farmers like small and marginal farmers are being continued during the Tenth Plan. As regards other schemes, the benefits of increase in production and productivity in agriculture are expected to accrue to all farmers, including the small and marginal farmers.

Production of export quality rice

1728. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after extending 50 per cent subsidy on inputs for cultivating export quality rice, the farmers are unable to compete in the International market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the action proposed to make agriculture cost-effective by adapting new technologies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The quality rice (basmati) exported during the last three years has shown increasing trend as mentioned below:-

Year	Quantity (Lakh tonnes)
1998-1999	5.98
1999-2000	6.38
2000-2001	8.49

To give flexibility to the States for extension and development activities as per their requirements/priorities, the Integrated Cereal Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture till October 2000 has been subsumed along with other 26 schemes of the Ministry under Macro Management mode of Agriculture. Under this scheme the maximum subsidy on inputs does not exceed 25 percent of the cost.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Efforts are being made to pupularize the cost effective technologies through demonstrations and training of the farmers for making agriculture more remunerative under the Centrr' and State schemes including macro Management Mode of Agriculture.

Employment opportunities in agriculture sector

†1729. SHRIMATI KUMKUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of the fact that India being an agricultural country, the numbers of opportunities for creation of jobs in the agriculture sector in the country have declined;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have formulated any plan creating additional job opportunities in the agriculture sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINITRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) According to the 55th Round of the quinquennial Survey on employment and unemployment

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.